

Wavelength Router, also referred to as Wavelength Routing Element™ or WRE

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The Opportunity

- DWDM optical transport networks require wavelength-selective switching functions to provide network management for wavelength-based service provisioning, bandwidth management, optical-layer protection and restoration.
 - OADM, WSXC and protection switches
- No integrated all-optical solutions exist yet
- We can be the first to offer integrated all-optical dynamic wavelength routing

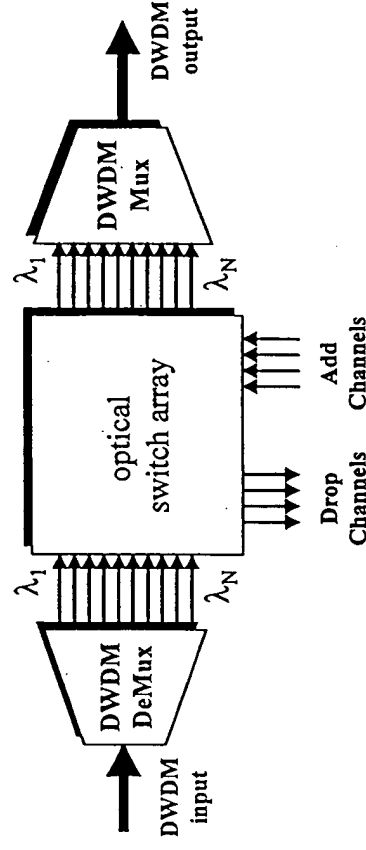
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Everybody Else's Solution

1. De-multiplex the DWDM stream into individual wavelengths on separate fibers
2. Switch the optical fibers electronically or optically (OXC, FXC)
3. Re-multiplex all the fibers into DWDM.

Complex and Expensive!

OADM Conventional Solution



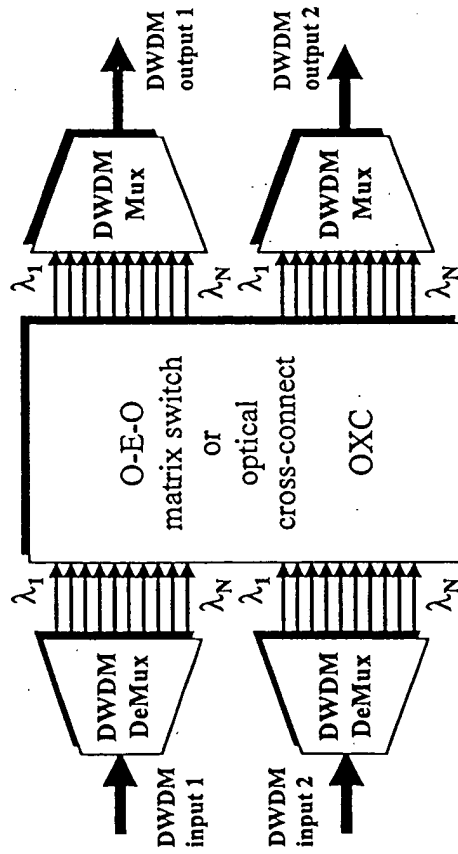
Cost = \$3,000 per λ

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WSXC Conventional Solution



Cost = \$3,000-\$5,000 per λ per fiber

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An Alternative Approach

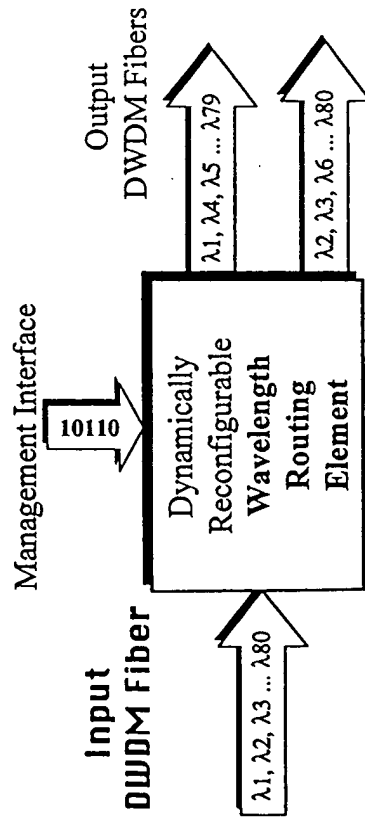
- Network Photonics has a novel solution:

Wavelength Routing Element™

All-optical wavelength routing component which enables networking functions by directly switching wavelengths instead of switching fibers.

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Wavelength Routing Element™

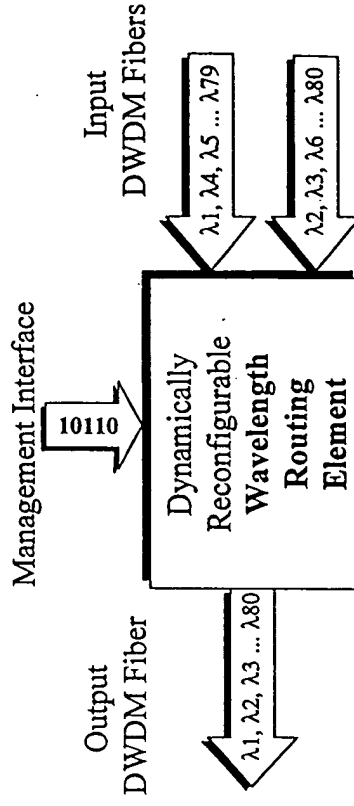


Any wavelength to any output

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Wavelength Routing Element™

it works in both directions



Any wavelength from any input

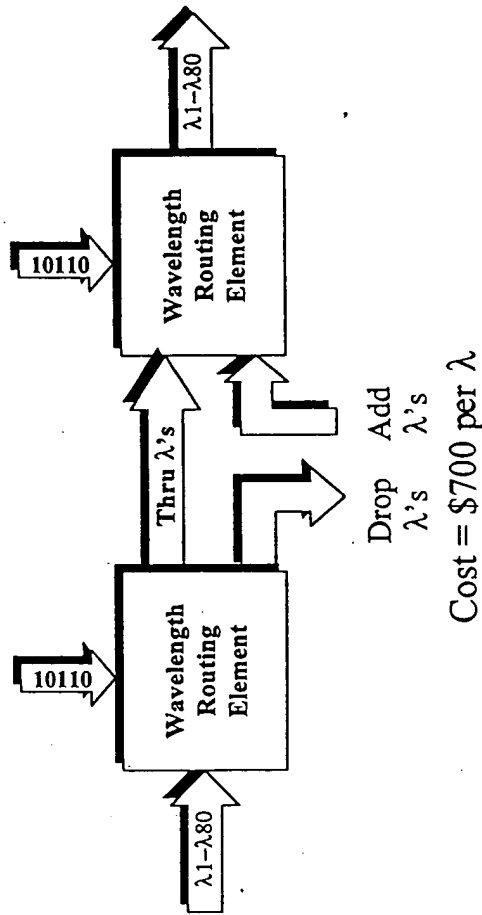
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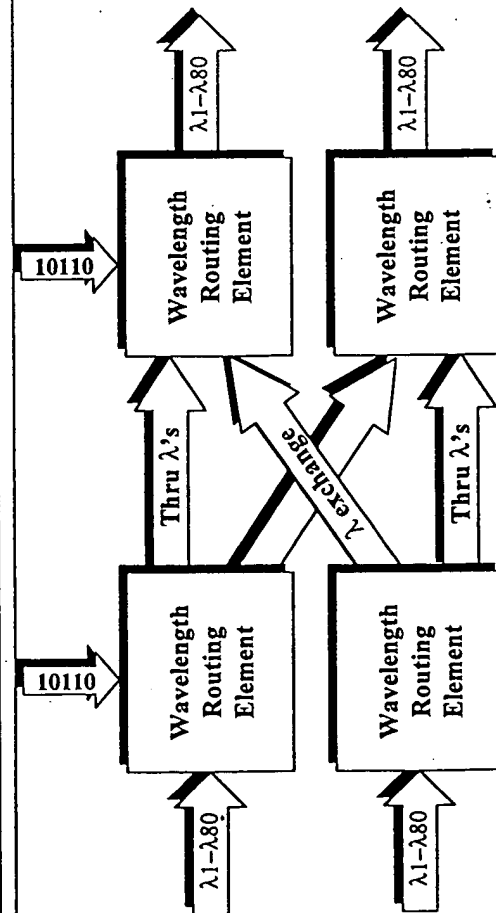
A Building Block

- The WRE is a building block for many optical layer applications:
 - Optical Add-Drop Multiplexer
 - Wavelength-Selective Cross-connect
 - Wavelength-Selective Protection Switching
 - Wavelength Distribution Router

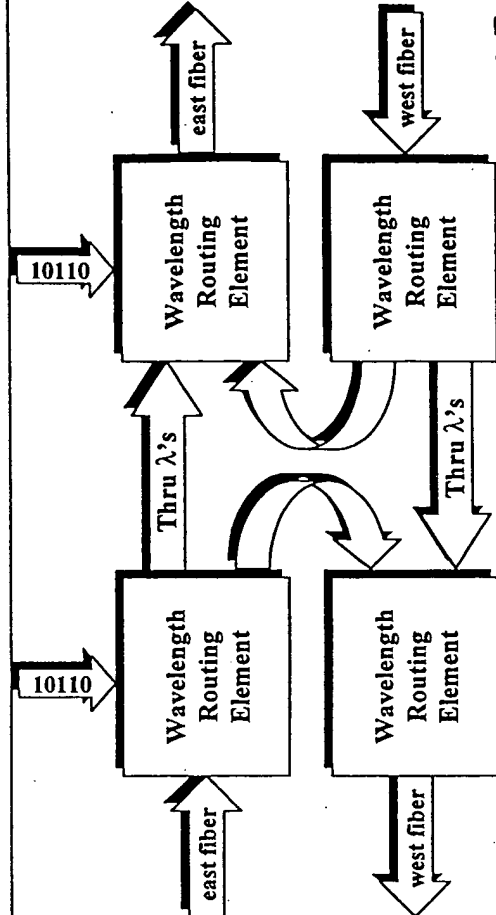
WRE Configurations: Optical Add/Drop Multiplexer (OADM)



WRE Configurations: Wavelength-Selective Cross-Connect



WRE Configurations: BLSR Protection Switching



WRE Technology Overview

- 2 parts working in combination:
 - Dispersion-Free Spectrometer (DFS)
 - Micro-optic Routing Array (MRA)
- DFS performs spatial conversion of multiplexed wavelengths
- MRA performs switching/routing functions

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DFS Overview

- DFS is the heart of the WRE
 - a single design for dynamic and passive WREs
- Requires only one optical element both for wavelength separation and recombination
- Based on free-space diffractive optics
 - unique light path eliminates chromatic dispersion
- no electronics or moving parts

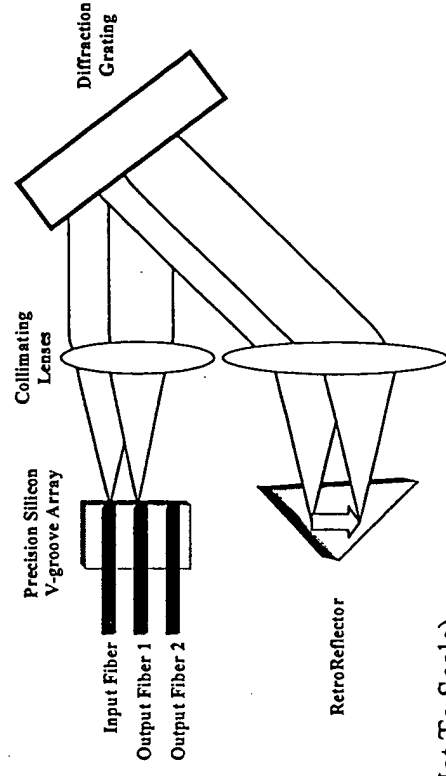
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MRA Overview

- Implemented as an array of micro-optic retroreflectors
- Performs either dynamic or static routing
 - dynamic design uses electronic actuation
 - static design requires no power
- Non-blocking and latching

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DFS Light Path



(Not To Scale)

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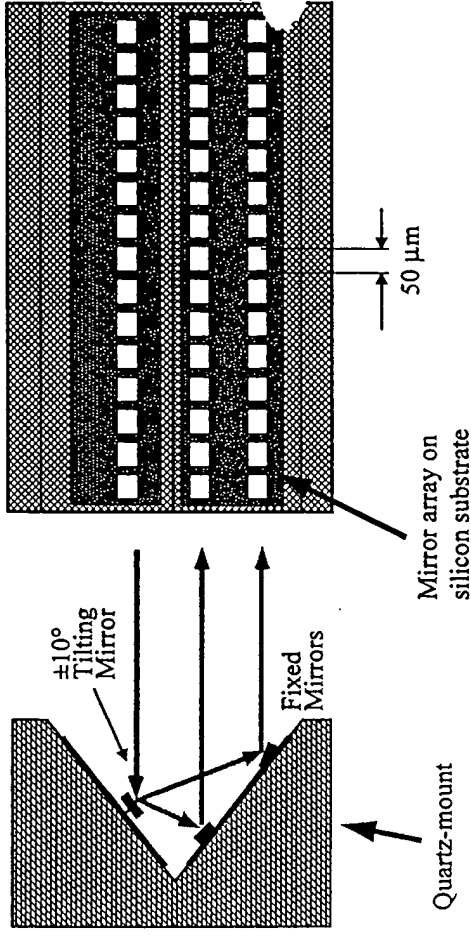
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Dynamic MRA Implementation

- MEMS tilting micromirror array
 - proprietary design
 - one switching mirror per λ fabricated on a 5 mm x 50 mm silicon substrate
 - requires only $\pm 10^\circ$ mirror tilt
- ♦ can use Texas Instruments DMD technology
- ♦ CMOS semiconductor fab process

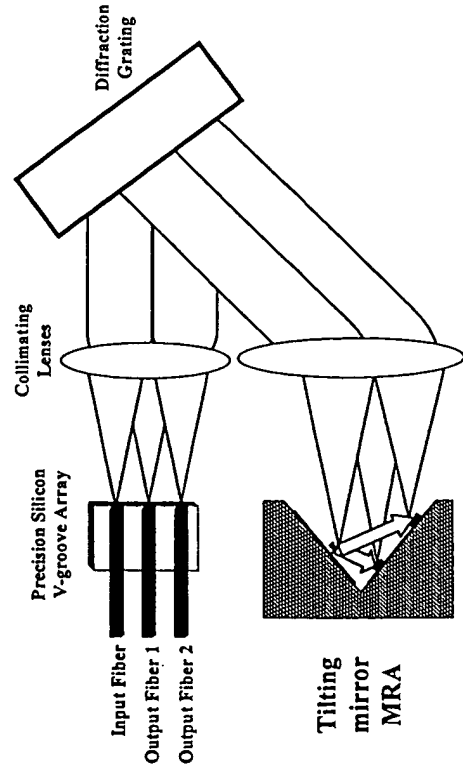
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MEMS Tilting MicroMirror Design



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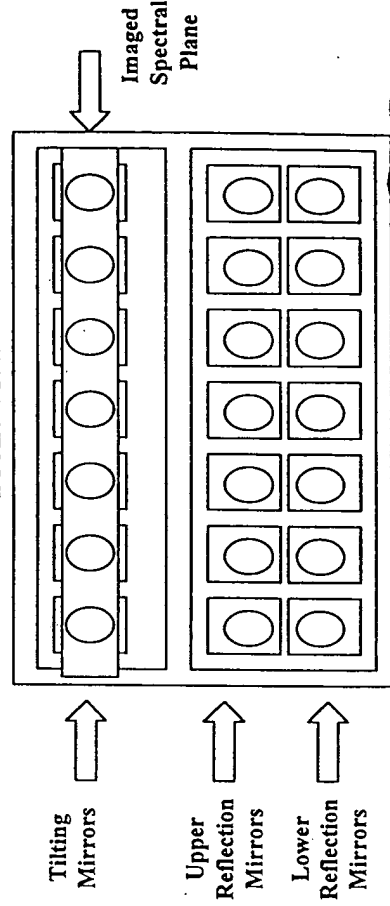
WRE Switching



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Directly Switching Wavelengths

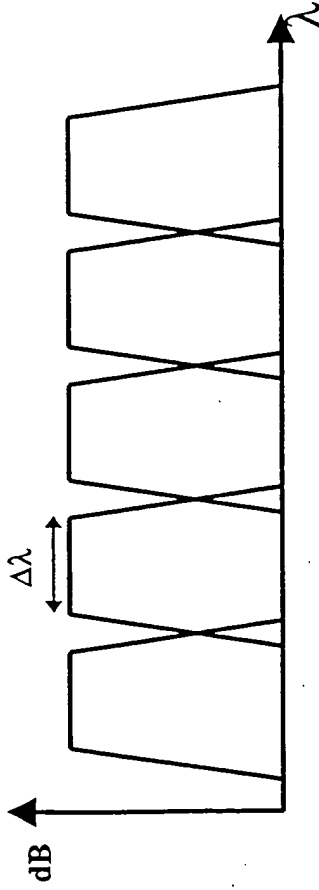
RetroReflector Array Front View



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Trapezoidal Passbands Superior Optical Performance



- 50 GHz channel spacing
- uniform gain characteristic across all channels
- low insertion loss - 3dB
- low crosstalk and high SNR - 40dB

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Dynamic WRE

- Dynamically-reconfigurable routing
- 250 μ sec switching time
- Latching
 - retains configuration with power off
- Scales to higher or lower DWDM channel densities

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Passive WRE

- Static MRA is fabricated on a silicon chip using gray-scale photolithography
 - no electronics or moving parts
 - proprietary design for 3-D retroreflector array
 - low-cost volume-fabrication process
 - same DFS as DWRE

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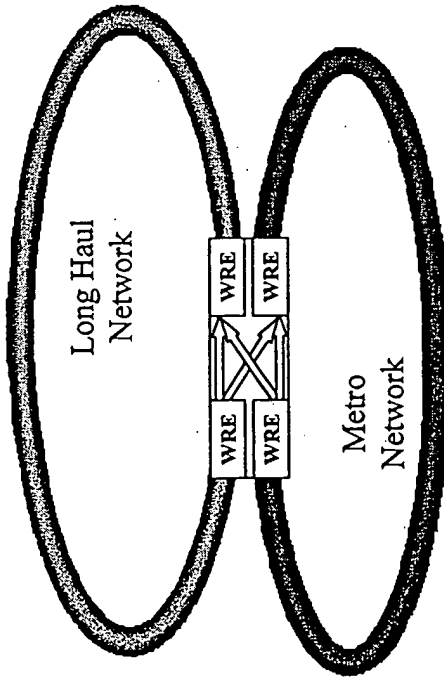
WRE Value Proposition

- Integrated subsystem functionality
 - simpler system design
 - ♦ no need to de-mux & re-mux
 - ♦ far fewer switching elements
 - ♦ far fewer fiber connections
- Lower system cost
 - less than the cost of alternatives
- Superior optical performance
- Higher system reliability

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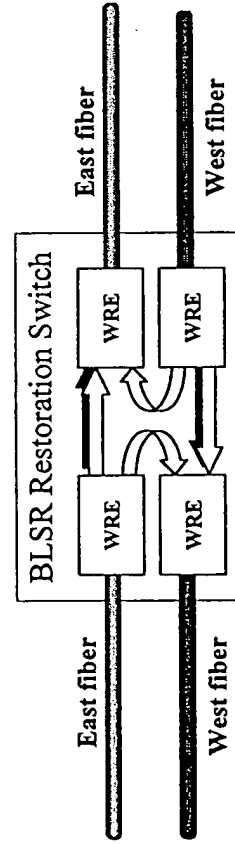
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Network Applications: Network Interconnect



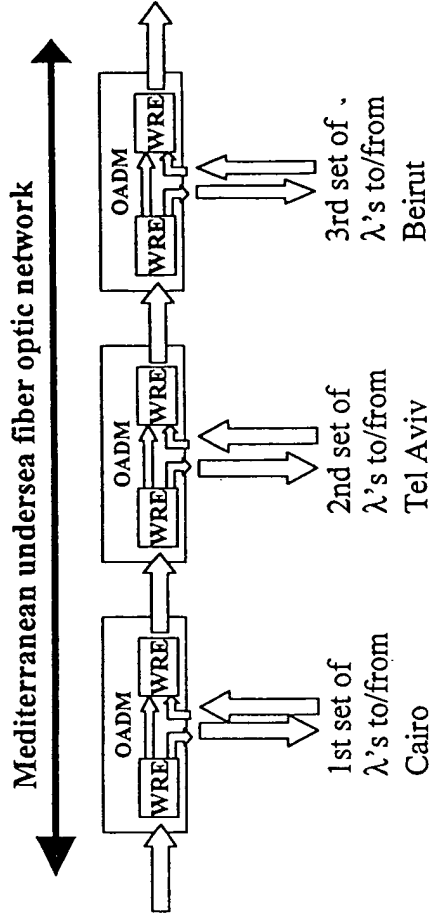
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Network Applications: 2-f BLSR Restoration



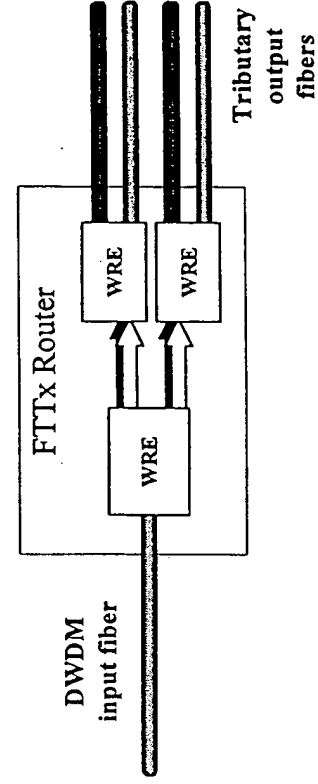
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Network Applications: Undersea Passive OADM



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Network Applications: FTTx Distribution Router



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